

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02

/057 W

-----041214Z 020915 /17

R 040932Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9579

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JAKARTA 2798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ID

SUBJECT: REPEAL OF REGULATION GOVERNING CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA (GOI) HAS ANNOUNCED THE REPEAL EFFECTIVE JULY 1 OF REGULATION SK 028, WHICH HAS SEVERELY RESTRICTED ON-CAMPUS STUDENT ACTIVITIES SINCE ITS PROMULGATION SHORTLY AFTER THE MALARI RIOTS IN 1974. EACH UNIVERSITY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING ITS OWN SUBSTITUTE REGULATIONS GOVERNING STUDENT ACTIVITIES AFTER JULY 1. THESE NEW GROUND RULES, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED

IN ADVANCE BY MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE THAYEB. THAYEB NOTED IN ANNOUNCING THE REPEAL, THAT HE STILL AGREED WITH THE CONTENTS OF SK 028 BUT WAS WILLING TO CONSENT TO ITS REPEAL SINCE THE REGULATION HAS BECOME SO "POLITICIZED."

2. THE GOI DECISION, ANNOUNCED DURING A THREE DAY CONCLAVE OF INDONESIA'S UNIVERSITY RECTORS JUST CONCLUDED IN JAKARTA, WAS NOT ENTIRELY UNEXPECTED. INDONESIAN PRESS AND STUDENT CIRCLES HAD BEEN OPENLY DEMANDING THE REPEAL OF SK 028, WHICH REQUIRED THAT ANY ON-CAMPUS EXTRA-CURRICULAR

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ACTIVITY HAVE THE SPECIFIC, ADVANCE APPROVAL OF THE RECTOR, FOR SOME MONTHS. THE REGULATION WAS USUALLY ATTACKED ON TWO GROUNDS, THAT IT STIFLED LEGITIMATE STUDENT INITIATIVES AND THAT IT WAS SO BROADLY WORKED AS TO INVITE CONFUSION ABOUT ITS INTENT AND/OR ABUSE BY AN OVER-ZEALOUS RECTOR. IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS, GOI SPOKESMEN HAD INDICATED THE GOVERNMENT'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER CHANGES IN SK 028.

3. COMMENT: THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL WAS UNDOUBTEDLY
PURPOSELY SET AFTER THE ELECTION. MOREOVER, SINCE THE
GOI HAS RETAINED AUTHORITY TO VETO ANY UNIVERSITY-PROPOSED
REGULATIONS IT DEEMS UNDESIREABLE, THERE IS REAL DOUBT THAT THE
REPEAL OF SK 028 WILL BE MORE THAN A COMSETIC CHANGE IN THE
LATITUDE PERMITTED CAMPUS ACTIVITIES IN INDONESIA. MINISTER THAYEB
AND SEVERAL UNIVERSITY RECTORS QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS
INDICATED THEIR FIRM INTENTION THAT DIRECT
CONTROL OF STUDENT EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES REMAIN IN
THE RECTOR' HANDS.
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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